HYBRID PEARL MILLET

VARIETIES: PP102M, Elite II

Sunny States **PP102M** and **Elite II** are medium tall growing varieties reaching heights of 6 to 8 1/2 feet under optimum growing conditions. They will reach pre-boot in 60 to 75 days. Both varieties tiller profusely with abundant leaves 1" to 2" wide making them very leafy with a fine stems and excellent quality hay.

PREFERED USES: Hybrid Pearl Millet is the only summer forage recommended for horse pasture. Best use is for pasture or hay, the same purposes as sorghum x sudans because of low prussic acid content. Hybrid Pearl Millet has a slightly higher water requirement than sorghum-sudans and is normally planted on irrigated ground in Central and Western Nebraska.

ESTIMATED YIELD: 2 to 5 tons dry matter /acre

SEEDING DATE: Early to mid June when soil temperature is 70 degrees or above. Better emergence and stands when the temp is 70 to 75 degrees at 6" depth.

PLANTING RATE:

Dryland	8 to 12 lb. /acre
Irrigated	15 to 25 lb. /acre

SEEDBED PREPARATION: Prepare a firm, weed-free seed bed and drill 1" to 1 1/2 " deep.(Note: Insure soil is free from carryover grass herbicides such as Dual, Lasso, and Treflan)

FERTILIZATION: Utilize soil tests to determine P & K and trace minerals needed. Apply 40 to 80 pounds of Nitrogen per acre. Split applications will lessen the nitrate poisoning potential.

WEED CONTROL: Planting in weed (emerged) free soil is best starting place. Weeds emerging after planting may be controlled by applications of atrazine (except in sandy soils) and 2,4-D when crop is 8" to 12" tall. Rates should be reduced by 1/2 rates labeled for sorghum. Care should be exercised as little data is available for Millets. Other herbicides may be available. Contact local Extension Service.

HARVEST: Grazing (summer) is recommended after plants are 12" to 15" tall. Rotate livestock after plants are grazed down to 6" of subble to reduce nitrates. Stock pasture sufficiently to keep plants below 36" tall. Haying is best done when plants are 30" to 40" tall. Multiple cuttings are preferred to maintain quality of hay. Later in the season, hybrid pearl millet will tend to head out at a shorter height. Green chopping 2 to 3 times per season will yield high quality and tonnage. Yield is close to that of sorghum-sudangrass hybrid.

NOTE: RAPID REGROWTH OF PEARL MILLETS CAN AFFECT STAND IF WINDROWS ARE ALLOWED TO LAY TOO LONG BEFPRE REMOVAL FROM FIELD.